

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) An end cap of an electromagnetic machine having a stator with a plurality of adjacent segments, the end cap including a body portion configured for positioning on a yoke portion of one of the adjacent segments, the body portion having first and second ends and first and second snap couplings on the first and second ends, respectively, the first and second snap couplings configured to snap couple to ends on adjacent end caps to substantially interlock and hold the adjacent segments together.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) The end cap of claim ~~25~~ 24, wherein the first snap coupling adjustably couples with the second snap coupling of a like adjacent end cap for adjusting alignment between the adjacent end caps.

27. (Currently amended) The end cap of claim ~~25~~ 24, wherein the first snap coupling includes a male member and the second snap coupling includes a female member.

28. (Previously Presented) The end cap of claim 27, wherein the male member includes a bifurcate catch extending from the first end of the body portion for snap fitting in the female coupling of a like adjacent end cap.

29. (Original) The end cap of claim 27, wherein the female member includes a snap slot defined in the second end.

30. (Previously presented) The end cap of claim 27, wherein the male member is configured for positioning adjacent a slotted end of the segment, and wherein the female member is configured for positioning adjacent a ridged end of the segment.

31. (Currently amended) An end cap of an electromagnetic machine having a stator with a plurality of adjacent segments, the end cap including a body portion configured for positioning on a yoke portion of one of the adjacent segments, the body portion having first and second ends ~~The end cap of claim 24, wherein the ends of the end cap define~~ defining slots configured for engagement by a clip having a first portion for fitting in one of the ~~said~~ slots and a second portion for fitting in one of the slots of an adjacent like end cap.

32. (Previously Presented) The end cap of claim 24, wherein the segment has a surface on which the end cap is positionable, and wherein the end cap further comprises:

- a slot defined in the first end and having an open side for exposing the surface of the segment, and
 - a finger extending from the second end and having a side substantially positionable on the same plane as the surface of the segment,
- wherein the finger fits within the slot on an adjacent like end cap with the side of the finger positioned against the surface of the adjacent segment so that the surfaces of the adjacent segments lie substantially on the same plane.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently amended) An electromagnetic machine, comprising:
a stator having a plurality of adjacent segments;

a plurality of end caps, each end cap having a body portion positioned on a yoke portion of one of the adjacent segments and having first and second ends, and
means for snap coupling the first and second ends of the adjacent end caps to substantially interlock and hold the adjacent segments together.

35. (Previously Presented) An end cap for an electromagnetic machine having a stator, the stator having a plurality of adjacent segments, each segment having a segment surface, the end cap comprising:

a body having a body surface configured for positioning against the segment surface of one of the segments such that the body surface and the segment surface lie on substantially the same plane,

wherein a portion of the body surface is positionable against the surface of ~~the~~ an adjacent segment for aligning adjacent segments in a direction generally parallel to a central axis of the stator such that the surfaces of the adjacent segments lie substantially on the same plane.

36. (Original) The end cap of claim 35, wherein the portion of the body surface includes a finger extending from a first end of the body.

37. (Previously Presented) The end cap of claim 36, wherein the body includes a slot defined in a second end of the body, the slot having an open side for exposing the surface of the segment, the slot configured for receiving the finger of the adjacent end cap on the adjacent segment.

38. (Previously Presented) The end cap of claim 36, wherein the finger is positionable adjacent a ridged end of the segment, and wherein the slot is positionable adjacent a slotted end of the segment.

39. (Original) The end cap of claim 36, wherein the body further comprises:
a female coupling on the first end of the body adjacent the finger; and

a male coupling on the second end of the body adjacent the slot,
wherein the male and female couplings on the adjacent end caps mate with one
another to substantially hold the adjacent segments together.

40. (Previously Presented) The end cap of claim 39, wherein the male member includes a bifurcate catch extending from the first end and is configured for snap fitting in the female member of an adjacent like end cap.

41. (Original) The end cap of claim 39, wherein the female member includes a snap slot defined in the second end.

42. (Previously Presented) A stator for an electromagnetic machine, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent segments of the stator, each segment having segment surface; and

a plurality of end caps, each end cap comprising:

a body having a body surface positioned against the segment surface of one of the segments such that the body surface and the segment surface lie on substantially the same plane,

wherein a portion of the body surface is positioned against the surface of the adjacent segment for aligning adjacent segments in a direction generally parallel to a central axis of the stator such that the surfaces of the adjacent segments lie substantially on the same plane.

43. (Previously Presented) An electromagnetic machine, comprising:

a stator having a plurality of adjacent segments, each segment having a segment surface;

a plurality of end caps, each end cap positioned against the segment surface of one of the adjacent segments and having first and second ends; and

means on the end caps for aligning the first and second ends of the adjacent end caps in a direction generally parallel to a central axis of the stator such that the segment surfaces of the adjacent segments lie on substantially the same plane.

44. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a stator for an electromagnetic machine, the stator having a plurality of segments and a plurality of end caps, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) positioning an end cap on each of the segments, each end cap having a body portion for engaging a yoke portion of one of the segments, each body portion having opposite ends and snap couplings on the opposite ends;
- b) positioning ends of the segments adjacent one another; and
- c) substantially interlocking and holding the ends of the adjacent segments together by snap coupling said ends of the adjacent end caps together.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the step (b) comprises the step of positioning a ridged end of one segment into a slotted end of the adjacent segment.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the step (c) comprises the step of mating male and female snap couplings ~~members~~ on the ends of the adjacent end caps.

47. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a stator for an electromagnetic machine, the stator having a plurality of segments and a plurality of end caps, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) positioning an end cap on each of the segments, each end cap having a body portion for engaging a yoke portion of one of the segments, each body portion having opposite ends;
- b) positioning ends of the segments adjacent one another; and

c) substantially holding the ends of the adjacent segments together by ~~The method of claim 44, wherein the step (c) comprises the step of fitting clips in slots defined in the adjacent ends on the adjacent end caps.~~

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the step (c) comprises the step of permitting movement at the snap coupled ends of the adjacent end caps in a direction generally parallel to a central axis of the stator.

49. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the step (a) comprises the step of substantially retaining the end caps on the segments by engaging the end caps on the tooth portions with an interference fit.

50. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the step (a) comprises the steps of:

positioning a surface of each end cap against a segment surface of each segment;

substantially aligning the segment surfaces of the adjacent segments on substantially the same plane by fitting a portion of each end cap surface against the segment surface of at least one of the adjacent segments.

51-57. (Canceled).

58. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a stator of an electromagnetic machine, the stator having a plurality of segments, a plurality of end caps, and wire, each segment having opposing surfaces, a yoke portion, a tooth portion, and a pole end, the method comprising the steps of:

a) positioning the end caps on the opposing surfaces of the segments with the end caps substantially covering the yoke portions;

b) substantially retaining the end caps on the segments by engaging the end caps on the tooth portions with an interference fit;

- c) winding the wire on the segments and the end caps; and
- d) forming the segments into the stator including ~~The method of claim 51,~~
wherein ~~step (d) further comprises the steps of~~ substantially aligning one of the opposing surfaces of each of the adjacent segments on substantially the same plane by positioning a portion of the surface on each of the end caps against the opposing surface of at least one of the adjacent segments.

59. (Currently amended) An end cap of an electromagnetic machine having a stator with a plurality of adjacent segments, the end cap configured for positioning on one of the adjacent segments and having first and second ends configured for snap coupling to ends on adjacent end caps to substantially interlock and hold the adjacent segments together, said first end including a deformable male member and said second end including a female member, the deformable male member configured for snap fitting with the female member of one of the adjacent end caps.